



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 –4:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Administrative Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III, Administrative Assistant
Other Attendees: Board of Health Chair Margaret Rice
Audience of Citizens: Ben Werner, Director of Rowe Camp and Conference Center

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 3:59 P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: **yes**

Silva: **absent**

Vice-Chair Semanie: **yes**

Background: This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

Covid Discussion: The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:

Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice provided the following updates:

- **School:** School Nurse will give flu vaccines to students at the school is delayed to mid-October as the vaccines are not in as yet. School would be receiving sanitizing machines for disinfecting which should be in soon.
- **Park:** Since the summer youth employees left Park Manager is maintaining the bathrooms. He reported having no issues with trash all Summer. Chair Rice said that she wanted to emphasize that people still need to pay attention to social distancing while at the park and wear masks when coming into contact with others.
- **Fitness Room:** Chair Rice said the Board of Health does not want to open the Town Hall Fitness Room as there is no budget to perform necessary disinfecting.

- Town Election: The town election in November will be held at the School gym and there are no classes on that day.
- Flu Clinics: Upcoming flu clinics were discussed at it was agreed to feature on the ROBO call.

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

Good Evening Rowe Residents,

"The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. This message includes a reminder regarding the upcoming seasonal flu vaccination clinics and the required paperwork to receive a vaccination, information regarding mask requirements at the transfer station, and an update regarding the current community-level risk of COVID-19 in Rowe.

The time of the two upcoming flu clinics will be from 9 AM to 11 AM on their respective days. As a reminder, the first clinic, September 26th, will be a drive-through clinic held at the Charlemont Fairground, whereas the second clinic, October 3rd, will be a walk-through clinic held at the old Heath Elementary School. The vaccinations provided at these clinics will be at no cost to residents of Rowe.

To receive a vaccination at one of these flu clinics, certain routine paperwork must be filled out. This paperwork is available at the town hall, the transfer station, and on the town website at Rowe-MA.gov

Filling the paperwork out ahead of time will speed the vaccination process up, and anyone who has the paperwork completed upon arrival will be given precedence over those who arrive at the flu clinic without the paperwork completed.

Although much of our attention is currently dedicated to the Coronavirus, it is important to remember that the seasonal flu can lead to serious complications, including hospitalization. Given that hospitalization may both increase exposure to the Coronavirus, and may deplete already strapped hospital resources, it is in the interest of each of us individually and collectively to do what we can to avoid the seasonal flu through vaccination.

Please remember that masks or cloth face coverings are required while at the Transfer Station. Please wear a mask and follow any additional instructions provided by the transfer station attendant while on site, as these guidelines are being implemented for everyone's health and safety.

The State of Massachusetts is maintaining data for community-level COVID-19 risk. Currently, the Town of Rowe is rated as a low-risk community due to our low incidence of infection and transmission. This is a product of our collective efforts to maintain social distancing and to wear masks while in public. As a reminder, it is these cloth face coverings, along with diligent hand washing and maintaining 6-foot distancing, that have allowed us to reduce the incidence of Coronavirus transmission as much as we have. Relaxing these practices may lead to greater virus transmission locally.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force continues to meet regularly and is staying informed about the current state of the Coronavirus pandemic and the effect of the pandemic on the Town of Rowe.

We will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: **yes**

Silva: **absent**


Vice-Chair Semanie: **yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

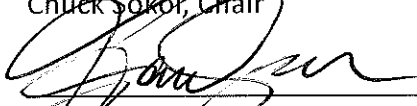
Chuck Sokol, Board of Selectmen Chair

Approval Date: 10/7/2020

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

Agenda September 15, 2020